



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Region



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

CERTIFIED MAIL

No. 70032260000212595554

NOV 03 2004

File No. 2179.7187 (RJC)

Mr. John Dixon
Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council
Community of Pescadero
Pescadero, CA 94060

No. 70032260000212595578
Mr. Steve Hartsell
San Mateo County Environmental Health
455 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

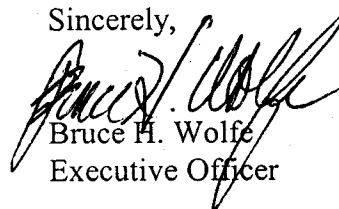
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Subject: Transmittal of Resolution R2-2004-0088, Support for the County Declaration of Public Health Threat Related to Sewage Disposal for the Community of Pescadero.

Attached is a copy of Resolution R2-2004-0088 adopted by the Board on October 20, 2004.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Condit at 510-622-2338.

Sincerely,


Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer

Attachment: Resolution R2-2004-0088

Copy to: Mr. David Kern
Program Manager,
Small Community Wastewater Grant Program
Division of Financial Assistance
Loans & Grants Branch
SWRCB
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 94244-2120

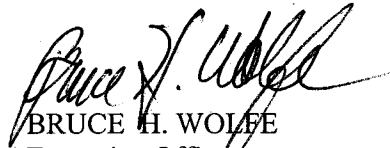
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION -04-R2-0088

SUPPORT FOR THE SAN MATEO COUNTY DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
THREAT RELATED TO SEWAGE DISPOSAL FOR THE COMMUNITY OF PESCADERO

- I. WHEREAS, the Community of Pescadero is a small coastal community established in the late 1800's on the flood plain of Pescadero Creek in a rural unincorporated area of west San Mateo County, and;
- II. WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Public Health and Environmental Protection Division (hereinafter Environmental Health) has permitting and oversight responsibilities for approximately 110 residences and small businesses with individual on-site septic systems in the community, most of which date back to the late 1890s, and;
- III. WHEREAS, the Community has a history of sewage disposal problems due, in part, to antiquated septic systems, high groundwater table, poor soils and surface/subsurface drainage problems, resulting in system failures, and;
- IV. WHEREAS, the current on-site septic systems are providing inadequate treatment and safe dispersion of waste, posing a serious water quality threat to the local aquifer, and;
- V. WHEREAS, well water testing performed in this area since 1949 has continuously shown the presence of high bacterial and nitrate contamination of the shallow aquifer, Pescadero Creek and surrounding wetlands, and;
- VI. WHEREAS, in 1974 Environmental Health submitted a Public Health Notification letter to local residents citing a health hazard to young children due to high nitrates in the drinking water supply, and;
- VII. WHEREAS, in the late 1980's the County found a remote water source and connected many of the current residences in this area to a community water system (County Service Area 11) in order to reduce the potential adverse health effects due to a contaminated water supply. Some of the residents remain outside this service area and must rely on the local aquifer as their source of drinking water, and;
- VIII. WHEREAS, on October 5, 2004, Environmental Health issued a Public Health Declaration stating that the present on-site septic systems in the Community of Pescadero pose a threat to public health and the area is unsuitable for conventional septic systems, and;
- IX. WHEREAS, the Water Board concurs with Environmental Health that the present on-site septic systems in the Community of Pescadero pose a significant threat to public health and water quality, and;
- X. WHEREAS, the Regional Board finds the combination of inadequate soil structure and high groundwater in the area provides poor conditions for adequate treatment of septic wastes from the residences and businesses in the Community and precludes the installation of effective new septic systems, and;
- XI. WHEREAS, the Community of Pescadero, with the support of Environmental Health, has applied to the State Water Resources Control Board for a 2004 Small Community Grant to address the problem.

- XII. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this WaterBoard supports the Public Health Declaration issued by the Environmental Health and Environmental Protection Division on October 5, 2004.
- XIII. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to comply with the Environmental Health Declaration and eliminate threats to public health and water quality, the Community of Pescadero shall establish a wastewater improvement project by July 1, 2009.
- XIV. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Water Board recommends to the State Water Resources Control Board that the Community of Pescadero be considered for grant assistance under the 2004 Small Community Grant program to plan and construct a small community wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system in the Community of Pescadero.
- XV. I, Bruce H. Wolfe, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on October 20, 2004.



BRUCE H. WOLFE
Executive Officer